Focus Group: Utilization and Consequences of Supply and Demand Projections in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

DRAFT -- September 1, 1998

There has been intense public discussion regarding assumptions and analytical methods used to estimate current California water use and to project future demand. Much of this discussion has centered around CALFED's draft EIS/EIR, data and assumptions used in the environmental analysis, and resulting conclusions. There is concern that if CALFED overestimates current water use and underestimates future potential for conservation and recycling, this may lead to flawed decision making and selection of a preferred alternative that includes storage or conveyance actions that are not needed.

Given these concerns, CALFED will convene a facilitated focus group of agency staff and invited stakeholders to examine:

- assumptions regarding supply and demand;
- the sensitivity of selection of a preferred alternative to different assumptions; and
- the water management strategy embodied in a comprehensive Bay-Delta solution.

Objectives

There are three principle objectives for this focus group effort. The first is to

- Identify and attempt to resolve differences of opinion about CALFED modeling assumptions regarding water supply and demand.

Second,

- To the extent that consensus is not attained as to the proper modeling assumptions, identify, through appropriate sensitivity analyses, the effect, if any, that the different modeling assumptions would have on the selection of a CALFED preferred alternative.

The third principle objective for this focus group is to

- Describe CALFED's water management strategy and foster stakeholder discussion of this strategy, in particular the value of water related to its abundance throughout a water year and across different water year types and the opportunities to simultaneously increase water supply benefits for water diverters and the environment.

Participants

The table below lists types of expertise, authority, and viewpoints that should be represented in the discussion on water management strategies, supply and demand assumptions, and the consequences of these assumptions. Also included are some tentative suggestions of individuals that may offer the technical knowledge, understanding of stakeholder concerns, or authority necessary for a productive discussion. This is not an exhaustive list of individuals who meet the criteria, but a sampling. In order to assure that all participants have an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns, group size should probably not be larger than about 20 individuals. Therefore, it will be necessary to select individuals who represent general stakeholder viewpoints rather than representatives of every individual interest group, local agency, and organization.

EXPERTISE, AUTHORITY, VIEWPOINTS	POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS
Technical knowledge of assumptions and analysis contained in CALFED modeling and EIS/EIR related to water use, projected demand, water use efficiency	Mark Cowin, Rick Breitenbach, Rick Soehren, Greg Young
Responsibility for formulation of CALFED water management strategy, development of CALFED preferred alternative, and preparation of EIS/EIR	Lester Snow, Steve Ritchie, Stein Buer
CALFED agency policy responsibility	Bob Potter, Kathy Kelly, Roger Patterson, Penny Howard, Felicia Marcus, Tom Hagler, Patrick Wright
Stakeholders, particularly those with strong concerns about CALFED assumptions, modeling, and analysis	Martha Davis, Peter Gleick, Dennis O'Connor, Spreck Rosecrans, representatives of urban and agricultural water users (eg CUWA, SWP contractors, etc.)

Agenda

The following agenda is proposed as a working draft subject to CALFED agency input:

1.	9:00	Introduction: why are we here, what do we want to accomplish? (Lester Snow)
2.	9:10	Meeting format, ground rules for conduct of the meeting (Scott McCreary)
3.	9:20	Background: a review of CALFED modeling, including supply and demand assumptions (Mark Cowin)
4.	9:45	Summary of comments on these issues (Rick Breitenbach, Mark Cowin, Rick Soehren)
5.	10:00	Sensitivity: modeling various future demand scenarios (Mark Cowin)
	10:15	Break
6	10:30	How things fit together: CALFED water management strategy (Lester Snow)
	12:00	Lunch
7.	1:00	Facilitated discussion of assumptions, concerns, water management strategy (All)
	3:30	Break
8.	3:45	Synthesis of discussion, wrap-up (Scott McCreary)
9.	4:15	Next steps and schedule (Lester Snow, Patrick Wright, Bob Potter)
	4:30	Adjourn

ASSPRO6--DRAFT--R. Soehren--09/01/98